



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 17-010: LISTING YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO AS A STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES

Description of Proposal:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has evaluated the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) for possible listing as a state endangered species with the process outlined in WAC 232-12-297. One rule is proposed to be amended: WAC 232-12-014. WAC 232-12-014 identifies endangered species in Washington that are in danger of extirpation in the state and are in need of recovery actions to restore populations to healthy levels.

Pursuant to WAC 232-12-297(5.1.1) and (5.2), WDFW is proposing to amend WAC 232-12-014 and is requesting that the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the Department's recommendation to list Yellow-billed Cuckoos as a state endangered species. Rationale for this action is presented in the *Draft Status Report for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Washington*. The report provides an analysis of the factors cited in WAC 232-12-297 (7.1.1) through (7.1.5) and considers all information relevant to the status of the species in Washington. The report also discusses factors affecting the species' status. As described in the report, Yellow-billed Cuckoos underwent a major decline in Washington in the early 1900s and are not believed to have bred in the state since probably the early 1940s. Since 1974, just 19 sightings of the species have been documented in Washington, representing an average rate of one sighting every 2.3 years. The main cause of the decline was likely the loss or degradation of riparian habitats caused by dam construction, flood control practices, commercial and residential development, changes in farming and ranching practices, and nonnative plant invasions. Agricultural pesticide use, which may affect prey abundance as well as the birds' health, is a potential additional threat.

Versions of the *Draft Status Report for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Washington* were evaluated by the scientific community, including both WDFW biologists and external scientists. As guided by WAC 232-12-297, which requires a 90-day public comment period, members of the public have been invited to review the draft report during a public comment period that extends from January 30 to April 30, 2017. After the close of the public review period, the Department will prepare the final status report and listing recommendation.

The final listing recommendation is planned to be presented to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission on August 4-5, 2017 and the Commission is expected to take action on the recommendation during the next meeting, scheduled to occur September 8-9, 2017.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Hannah Anderson, Listing and Recovery Section Manager
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The current range of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Washington includes the entire state.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 45 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 45 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on April 30, 2017**. Please note that April 30 is a Sunday. To maintain consistency with the end date for the listing proposal's comment period under WAC 220-610-110(8.1.1), a 45-day SEPA public comment period will also end on April 30, which includes an additional two days because this date is a Sunday.

Method of Comment: The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: March 14, 2017

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 17-010.dns